IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re application of	:	Aleksey Vladimorovich Afanasiev
Serial No.	:	10/772,275
Filed	:	02/06/2004
Utility	:	INPUT DEVICE FOR ELECTRONIC DATA STORAGE AND/OR TRANSMISSION APPARATUS
Examiner	:	KOVALICK, VINCENT E
Art Unit	:	2629

RESPONSE TO DETAILED ACTION

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT
COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is a response to the Detailed Action dated 09/29/2006 in the above identified utility application, the time for responding having been extended until 03/29/2007. Please amend the claims and the application as attached to the response.

With respect to Claims rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103:

The Applicant agrees with the Examiner's opinion with respect to Claims 1, 4-10 and 12-19 and Claims 2-3 and 11 disclosed in Levy (U.S. Pat. No. 5,612,690) and Lapeyre (U.S. Pat. No. 4,891,777).

Therefore, the Applicant considers appropriate to restrict the claims. The amended claims are enclosed with this response.

In the Applicant's opinion, none of the cited documents teaches the invention as claimed in the new claims.
This opinion is based on the following arguments.

In a keypad system according to Levy (U.S. Pat. No. 5,612,690) the keys are sized and configured in such a way as to input both numerals and alphabetic characters by a combination stroke of more than one key. However, all embodiments of Levy have a large number of keys, the smallest number being 24 (4x6). Meanwhile, most modern telephones have a keyboard having at most 4 rows of keys, usually 12 keys (4x3). Therefore, Levy cannot be used in most modern telephones, particularly mobile phones.

Lapeyre (U.S. Pat. no. 4,891,777) discloses a keyboard apparatus comprising twelve keys. Thus, the number of keys is less than with Levy because combination strokes of two and three keys are used. Apparently, Lapeyre is more suitable for being used in modern telephones, particularly mobile phones.

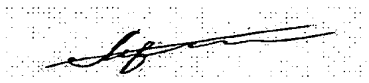
However, the twelve keys of the Lapeyre's keyboard are arranged in more that four rows. Therefore, the keyboard is still too spacious for a telephone, particularly, for a mobile phone. Further, Lapeyre character marks are printed right on the ridged key portions or bars that are to be stroked. Thus, character marks are in friction with the fingers and can be wiped away after a certain number of key strokes.
Unlike Lapeyre, in the claimed invention each area on which the user's finger shall be placed when stroking a combination of keys is marked with its corresponding character in a space between the keys on the panel of the input device. The spaces between the keys are less (if at all) affected by the user's fingers than ridged key portions or bars, and therefore the character marks cannot be wiped away that easily. This would result in a longer life of the device. Further, the keys are located in four rows (4x3), and thus the keyboard is compact enough to be used in a modern telephone, particularly, mobile telephone.

In the above context, features of claims 5 and 6 were added to claims 1 and 10 to characterize the areas of the keyboard that shall be stroked to input the character represented in the space between the keys on the panel of the input device. Further, features from the description, page 3, paragraph [0038] were added.

Thus, neither Levy, nor Lapeyre teaches a keyboard having at most four rows of spaced keys, wherein the keyboard surface comprises areas on which the user's finger shall be placed when stroking a combination of keys, each of these areas corresponding to the character to be inputted and, in a space between the keys on the panel of the input device, is marked with its corresponding character.

The amended claims are on **page 4 below.**

Respectfully submitted,

A. V. Afanasiev  March 29, 2007